Norms for telephone exchanges in rural areas

897. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have revised the norms for opening of new telephone exchanges in the rural areas of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Conversion of overhead telephone wires into underground cable

†898. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to lack of departmental foresightedness overhead telephone wires connecting Chamurkha village under Kurebhar Telephone Exchange of Sultanpur district in Uttar Pradesh are routed through dense jungles of bamboo and mango trees which often remain broken and the demand for laying underground cable is turned down on one or the other pretext;

(b) whether Government would convert overhead cable of at least between last two poles to underground cable so as to tackle with the said problem;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Only one telephone connection is working \n Chamurkha village under Kurebhar telephone exchange of Sultanpur district in Uttar Pradesh. There is no further demand from the village for telephones. For one connection, laying of cable is not justified. However, action is taken from time to time to remove branches of trees coming in the way of alignment.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) The overhead cable between last two poles has already been replaced with drop wire.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Norms for business of IT education

†899. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govemment have fixed any norms in respect of the business worth thousands crores of rupees being conducted in the name of education in the field of Information Technology by a number of national and multinational private companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, DOE ACC (Department of Electronics Accreditation of Computer Courses) Society (an autonomous organisation under Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology) has a voluntary scheme by the name of DOEACC Scheme, under which institution in the non-formal sector are given accreditation for conducting DOEACC courses on their request, subject to their meeting well defined norms and criteria in terms of faculty, infrastructure etc.

Stocks at Central Store of MTNL, Delhi

†900. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister, of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of cable, drop wire, PVC, telephones, tools and other material lying at the Central Store of MTNL, Delhi as on 30th June, 2002 alongwith the item-wise value thereof;

(b) since when these items are lying in the store;

(c) the items alongwith quantity and value thereof, which MTNL, Delhi would still procure during the year 2002-2003; and

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.